

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 JUSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00  
NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07  
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O 170851Z JAN 78

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8759

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SPON, KS, US

SUBJ: KOREAN MEDIA ON PARK TONG SON CASE

REF: SEOUL 361 (DTG 160903Z JAN 78)

SUMMARY: PRESS COVERAGE JAN 17 OF PARK TONGSUN AFFAIR CONCERNED ITSELF MAINLY WITH: CIVILETTI'S PRESS STATEMENTS AND IMMINENT DEPARTURE; ANNOUNCEMENT OF RELEASE OF MOU AND MPAA; POLITICIANS' OPINIONS, MOSTLY CRITICIZING CONG CAPUTO'S ELOQUENCE, AND GRUMBLING ABOUT CONGRESSIONAL DEMANDS FOR PTS TESTIMONY. SOME OPTIMISM THAT PTS' FRANKNESS MAY AID US-ROK RELATIONS. EDITORIAL COMMENT ABSENT. END SUMMARY.

1. PRESS EXTENSIVELY QUOTED CIVILETTI JAN 16 AS SAYING:  
THAT HE WAS RETURNING TO DC FOLLOWING DAY; THAT HE EXPRESSED REGRET TO KOREAN SIDE OVER NY TIMES LEAK; THAT INTERROGATION WAS "HARD, SLOW, REQUIRING CLOSE ATTENTION", AND WOULD LAST ABOUT 70 WORKING HOURS OF WHICH 14 ALREADY FINISHED; THAT IT WAS USEFUL TO HAVE AN ETHICS COMMITTEE OBSERVER AND THAT THE JUSTICE DEPT WOULD FURNISH THE HOUSE AND SENATE ETHICS COMMITTEES WITH AUTHENTICATED TRANSCRIPTS. HANKUK  
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ILBO QUOTES HIM AS PROMISING TO REVEAL MORE OF THE INTERROGATION DETAILS ONCE BACK IN THE US, AND LAUDING THE "EXCELLENT, COOPERATIVE ATTITUDE OF THE ROKG". CHOSUN ILBO ADDS THAT CIVILETTI SPOKE FOR BOTH US AND ROKG ON NY TIMES LEAK--"EXPRESSED REGRET TO THE ROKG, ADDING THAT THE ROKG HAD THE SAME FEELING." FINALLY, CIVILETTI IS WIDELY QUOTED AS SAYING THAT THE FIRST TWO

DAYS' INTERROGATION HAD COVERED THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INDICTMENT AGAINST PTS, DEALING MOSTLY WITH MATTERS ALREADY KNOWN TO JUSTICE DEPT; FROM NOW ON QUESTIONING WILL DELVE INTO TERRA INCOGNITA, PRINCIPALLY DETAILS OF PERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS.

2. PAPERS ALSO QUOTE WASHINGTON POST AS SAYING CIVILETTI DENIES REPORTS 20-40 SITTING CONGRESSMEN ARE "INVOLVED", AVERRING "ONLY A HANDFUL WILL BE INDICITED".

3. AFTERNOON PAPERS FOLLOW UP ON CIVILETTI'S REFERENCE TO FURNISHING CONGRESS AN AUTHENTICATED TRANSCRIPT, REPORTING FROM WASHINGTON THAT JUSTICE DEPT WILL "INITIATE PERSUASION AGAINST CONGRESS TO ACCEPT PTS' WRITTEN TESTIMONY".

4. AFTERNOON PAPERS REPORT THAT TEXT OF MUTUAL PROSECUTION ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT WILL BE SIMULTANEOUSLY RELEASED IN WASHINGTON AND SEOUL ON JANUARY 19, WHILE US WILL RELEASE TEXT OF MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING JANUARY 17. SEOUL SINMUN COMMENTS THAT THE AGREEMENT'S APPARENT PROVISION THAT THE SEOUL INTERROGATION WOULD OVERLOOK PARK'S RELATIONSHIP WITH THE KOREAN GOVERNMENT CONTRADICTS EARLIER JUSTICE DEPARTMENT STATEMENTS THAT THE INTERROGATION WOULD BE UNRESTRICTED. TONG-A ILBO ADDS THAT PTS WILL SUBMIT RECORDS, LETTERS, ETC. TO INTER-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ROGATORS BUT WILL NOT BE QUESTIONED ABOUT HIS ROKG ASSOCIATIONS, THOUGH CONGRESSIONAL TESTIMONY WOULD NOT BE SIMILARLY RESTRICTED.

5. COMMENTS ON CAPUTO VISIT CONTINUE INDIGNANT. HANKUK ILBO AND OTHERS QUOTE MOFA OFFICIALS' ACCUSATION THAT VISIT WAS SIMPLY ELECTIONEERING; KYONGYANG SINMUN QUOTES FORMER ROK AMBASSADOR HAM BYONG-CHOON, WHOSE RETURN CAPUTO SEEKS FOR CONGRESSIONAL TESTIMONY: "I AM FLABBERGASTED TO SEE SUCH BIG-POWERISM EXHIBITED BY SOME CONGRESSMEN". SIMILAR INDIGNATION FROM ASSEMBLYMEN AND MINISTRY OFFICIALS QUOTED IN ALMOST ALL PAPERS, AS WELL AS CONTINUED RESENTMENT OVER CONGRESSIONAL DEMANDS FOR PTS' TESTIMONY.

6. ONE POSITIVE NOTE: CHUNGANG ILBO GOSSIP COLUMN SAYS SOME IN MOFA, WHILE CONCERNED THAT PTS' REVELATIONS CORROBORATE EARLIER SENSATIONAL SPECULATION IN US PRESS, FEEL THAT PARK'S VERY FRANKNESS MAY GO FAR TO SATISFYING AMERICAN DEMANDS AND SOLACING THE "ESTRANGED RELATIONSHIP".  
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## Message Attributes

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